

November 2, 1999

Dr. Robert Van Hook
President
Lockheed Martin Energy Systems
P.O. Box 2009
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6241

Dear Dr. Van Hook,

Since 1994 more attention has been directed toward addressing and resolving chemical hazards in the Department of Energy. Significant chemical vulnerabilities within the complex have been identified through occurrence reports; mishap investigations/audits by DOE HQ Office of Environment, Safety, and Health; local DOE field offices; and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board; and workshops sponsored by DOE and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG). These vulnerabilities are both actual and compliance-oriented safety concerns that have caused or have a real potential to cause significant adverse effects to the public, the workers, and the environment.

While the Department has made progress in addressing these vulnerabilities through chemical industry partnerships and enhancements in its safety programs, we took a major step forward in 1998 with the formation of the Chemical Safety Interest Group (CSIG). The group's purpose is to provide a forum for DOE line management and EFCOG personnel to identify additional vulnerabilities, to specifically develop and recommend solutions to new and previously identified vulnerabilities, and to exchange lessons learned and best practices that promote continuous improvement and excellence in chemical safety. Since the efforts of this group will affect future Directives and Standards, the group has recently been reorganized and chartered as the Chemical Safety Topical Committee (CSTC) under the Department's Technical Standards Program.

The CSTC and EFCOG are sponsoring the DOE/EFCOG Chemical Safety '99 Workshop in the DOE Forrestal Building auditorium on December 14-16, 1999, with the theme "Chemical Safety and Integrated Safety Management (ISM): Incorporating Chemical Safety into an ISM Program" (preliminary agenda enclosed). Key elements of an effective Chemical Safety Management Program (CSMP) are the identification of chemical safety requirements and the integration of these requirements into the work process. We can only achieve a comprehensive and effective ISM Program if the elements of a CSMP are adequately addressed. Since this can best be accomplished through a complex-wide team effort, I am asking your assistance as EFCOG Chair, in soliciting the EFCOG Directors' support in ensuring adequate contractor participation in this Workshop and the follow-on efforts to resolve identified chemical safety vulnerabilities.

Your support will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward promoting the implementation of ISM across the complex.

For more information on the workshop and opportunities to contribute to advancing the Workshop and chemical safety in the DOE, please contact Dr. George Schlossnagle on 301-903-9418.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Worker Health & Safety

Enclosure